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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/Soviet Bloc

REPORT

SUBJECT Permanent Committee for Economic, Technical, and Scientific Collaboration in Forestry

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE: APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. In mid-1957, the first meeting of the Permanent Committee for Economic, Technical, and Scientific Collaboration in Forestry was called in Prague with a view to organize Soviet Bloc collaboration in the field of timber production. This meeting's only objective was to draw up a preliminary joint program for all countries involved. No particular production orders for machinery or tools were passed, nor was a list drawn up of the designs of machinery displayed by some of the participating countries.
2. The following results were obtained:
 - a. An agreement on annual meetings to promote interchange of experiences gained in the fields stipulated at the Prague meeting, and report on the results obtained in research work.
 - b. The setting up of a secretariat designed to coordinate the interchange of experiences and the future line in the machine production program.
3. Until July 1958, little was achieved that might have resulted in fabrication orders. At a meeting of the Permanent Committee, presumably held in Budapest in June 1958, the abovementioned secretariat was disbanded and its Hungarian secretary, Paris (fmu), dismissed under the charge of having achieved nothing except spending money.
4. At the Budapest meeting it was decided that, in view of the highly mechanized timber production, instead of establishing a broad common program, preference should be given to establishing close collaboration between countries having a similar type of forest cultivation and offering equal industrial capacities.

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5. Presumably in connection with this recommendation, in June 1958 Dr. Kostron, director of the Czech Main Administration of Forestry at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, invited the East German Ministerium fuer Land- und Forstwirtschaft to attend a meeting to be held in Prague between 17 and 20 July 1958. This invitation was accepted by East Germany. Delegations from both countries jointly inspected various Czech forest machines and their practical application, and on 20 July 1958 it was agreed to draw up a program for close technical and scientific cooperation with the objective to establish a common basis for the timber production line at the earliest convenience. Moreover, in keeping with the industrial aims of either country, a joint machine building program was drawn up as well as a list of all machinery actually available for practical use and testing. The following important decisions were taken:

- a. Immediate interchange of machinery for testing and further development and,
- b. the compilation of data on the fabrication and application of forest machines and forest management proper, to be presented at the Permanent Committee's next meeting in Prague in the fall of 1958.

6. In order to provide a broad basis for cooperative work, decentralization was decided upon and individual problems were slated to be solved on a regional basis. District administrations and councils in East Germany and Czechoslovakia will in the future collaborate in the special fields assigned to them. A protocol relevant to the matter was drawn up on 20 July 1958. Under this agreement, the East German delegation decided to start the testing of the following machines to be delivered by Czechoslovakia:

- a. A 42-h.p. Zetor-Super bulldozer with scraper blade.
- b. A universal cable-ropeway for timber haulage.

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